

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/060 W

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R 131815Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8931

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 0582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TO, PGOV, PINT

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGE (II): MINISTER-DESIGNATE FIRED

REF: LOME 523

1. IN WHAT MUST BE MOST EMBARRASSING INCIDENT IN SEVERAL YEARS TO BEFALL HIS ADMINISTRATION, PRESIDENT EYADEMA YESTER-DAY (MARCH 12) SIGNED DECREE TEMPORARILY ATTACHING MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT TO MINISTRY OF PLAN, DROPPING MIN COMMERCE-DESIGNATE AYEVA (REFTEL) FROM GOVERNMENT. MINISTRY WAS JUST REORGANIZED AND NEW MINISTER NAMED MARCH 5. TOGO-PRESSE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY SAYS ONLY "THIS DECISION IS EXPLAINED BY FACT THAT DISPUTE EXISTS BETWEEN INCUMBENT OF SAID DEPARTMENT, MR. ZARIFOU AYEVA AND HIS FORMER EMPLOYER, SOCIETE GENERALE DU GOLFE DE GUINEE (SGGG)."

2. RELIABLE EMBASSY SOURCES REPORT AYEVA WAS FIRED BY SGGG THREE DAYS BEFORE HIS APPOINTMENT AS COMMERCE MINISTER, FOR
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EMBEZZLEMENT OF 6-8 MILLION CFA FRANCS (DOLS 29,000-38,000

APPROX) FROM BRANCHES UNDER HIS CONTROL. REPORTS CONFLICT WHETHER AYEVA WAS ACTUALLY FIRED MARCH 2 OR EMBEZZLEMENT WAS ONLY DISCOVERED THAT DAY, BUT AGREE THAT LOCAL FRENCH DIRECTOR OF SGGG BLEW WHISTLE ON THE PLAY BY INFORMING EYADEMA, WHO REPORTEDLY IS FURIOUS.

3. TROUBLES COME IN HANDFULS: YESTERDAY PRESIDENT EYADEMA ALSO FIRED HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR TOURISM DOSSEVI MATHEY APOSSAN, REPLACING HIM WITH AWOUYNON AKANGNI KODJOVI. (LATTER, UNTIL NOW CHIEF OF DAPANGO CIRCUMSCRIPTION, HAS GOOD REPUTATION AND WAS NOMINATED LATELY BY EMBASSY FOR IV GRANT.) APOSSAN'S FALL FROM GRACE, AS REPORTED TO US BY SEVERAL SOURCES, WAS CAUSED BY HIS SISTER, WHOM HE HAD PUT ON PAYROLL OF NEW DELUXE HOTEL DE LA PAIX. SISTER STOLE 300,000 CFA FRANCS (DOLS \$1,400 APPROX) FROM HOTEL GUEST -- GABONESE MINISTER WHO CAME TO SILN ACP/EEC CONVENTION. POLICE SEARCHED SISTER'S HOME (SHE IS A BAILIFF'S WIFE), FOUND THE MONEY. SHE HAS BEEN TAKEN, ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, TO CAMP MILITAIRE, LOME, AND BADLY BEATEN.

4. COMMENT: WHILE TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHAT FURTHER FALLOUT, IF ANY, WILL OCCUR FROM AYEVA CASE, PRESIDENT, AS EVIDENCED BY HIS FIRING OF APOSSAN AND HARSH TREATMENT OF SISTER, IS CLEARLY ANGRY ABOUT SCANDALS TOUCHING HIS GOVERNMENT. CONSEQUENCES COULD THEREFORE BE UNPLEASANT FOR MIN PUBLIC WORKS AND MINES MIVEDOR AND/OR MRS. MIVEDOR, SISTER OF AYEVA, IF THEY HAD PROMOTED HIS CANDIDACY.

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